cause of positive response from passengers and Travel Trade.

(c) The scheme was conceptualised in June, 1996 and launched in the same month.

(d) Does not arise.

Irregularity in Medical Supplies

3552. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whetehr it is a fact that Rs. 50 lakh is given every year for the purchase of medical supplies for inmates, but last year it was four crore worth of medicines purchased;

(b) whether it is a fact that a scam of four crore in the purchase of medical supplies has been detected in Tihar Jill;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) The total value of medical supplies made to Tihar Jail by Medical Store Organisation during the last two years is as under:

Year	Value (in Rupees)
1994-95	3,47,13,685.00
1995-96	2,05,98,454.00

(b) to (d) The Tihar Jail authorities had constituted a Committee to inquire into the management and supply of medicines in Central Jail, Tihar. It has been reported that the Committee's report has been forwarded recently to the Government of NCT of Delhi for further necessary action.

पंजाब में स्टेट बैंक आफ इन्दौर की शाखायें खोलना

3553. **श्री गोविन्द राम मिरी:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पंजाब में अभी तक स्टेट बैंक इन्दौर की शाखायें न खोले जाने के क्या कारण हैं;

(ख) निकट भविष्य में इस राज्य में स्टेट बैंक आफ इन्दौर की कितनी शाखयें खोले जाने की संभावना है; और

(ग) क्या पंजाब के शहरों में पिछले वर्षों के दौरान इस बैंक की शाखायें खोलने की मंजूरी भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने दी थी। यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

वित्त मंत्री तथा कंपनी कार्य मंत्री (श्री पी० चिदम्बरम): (क) से (ग) भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (आर बी आई) की मौजूदा शाखा लाइसेंसिंग नीति के अंतर्गत, यह वाणिज्यक बैंकों पर छोड़ दिया गया है कि वे महानगरीय, शहरी और अर्द्ध-शहरी केन्द्रों में शाखाएं खोलने का निर्णय उनकी तत्संबंधी आवश्यकताओं का मूल्यांकन करने और भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक से अनुमोदन प्राप्त होने पश्चात स्वयं लें। बैंकों द्वारा पता लगाई गई ग्रामीण शाखाएं खोलने के उन प्रस्तावों पर भी भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक द्वारा गुणावगुण के आधार पर विचार किया जाता है, जिनकी सिफारिश राज्य सरकारों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों ने की है। भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने सूचित किया है कि उन्होंने पंजाब में खाखा खोलने के लिए 1.1.1995 से 31.7.1996 तक की अवधि के दौरान स्टेट बैंक आफ इन्दौर को कोई प्राधिकार पत्र जारी नहीं किया है।

Examining of Recommendations of Chelliah Committee

3554. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whetehr all the recommendations of the Chelliah Committee have been examined by Government particularly regarding reforms in the country's tariffs;

(b) if so, by when Tariff Commission will be set up to recommend appropriate tariff for different products and different industries taking into account the legitimate interests of the domestic industry; and

(c) whether the new Tariff Commission will take into account the recommendations of the Chelliah Committee and dettails of decisions taken/progress made in this regard to date?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE & MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Action to set up a Tariff Commission has been initiated.

(c) The terms of reference of the Commission are yet to be finalised.

Cancellation of filights from Rajahmundry and Vijayawada

3555. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for cancellation of flights from Rajahmundry and Vijayawada;

(b) whether the services will be restored; and

(c) by when the work for upgradation of Rajahmundry and Vijayawada airports are to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Vayudoot operations to Rajahmundry and Vijaywada were discontinued due to commercial and operational constraints.

(b) Indian Airlines has at present no plans to restore operations to Rajahmundry and Vijayawada. Private operations to Rajahmundry and Vijayawada. Private operators, however, are encouraged tc add more stations in their network including Vijayawada and Rajahmundry.

(c) Airports Authority of India has plans to upgrade Vijayawada Airport and the work is expected to be awarded during the last quarter of 1996-97.

Dumping of Newsprint

3556. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whetehr the paper mills based on agricultural residues have expressed serious concern over the dumping of the newsprint in the country;

(b) whether the Indian Agro Paper Mills Association (IAMPA) has asked Government that actual user condition should be immediately reimposed on newsprint imports;

(c) whether they excressed that newsprint should be made available duty free only to newspaper publishers;

(d) if so, by when the demands of IAPMA are likely to be accepted; and

(e) whether Government propose to bring any changes in the newsprint policy?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Secrecy of 'Monsoon Magic Offer' by Air India

3557. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is customary for airlines to keep their attractive offers secret and selective when they are deloped;

(b) the reson for Air India keeping its 'Monsoon Magic' offer secret till date June, 1996;

(c) whether because of such mess Air India is getting bad name and several of its loyal customers are drifting away from Air India;